

ABBA® Waterloo







ABBA Waterloo

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Waterloo was first released in Sweden as Polar POLS 252 on March 4, 1974. Recording sessions began in September 1973 and continued until February 1974. The album was recorded at Metronome Studio in Stockholm, Sweden.

◀ ABBA in the Spring of 1974

ABBA Waterloo

■ Waterloo turned to victory

Liner notes by Carl Magnus Palm

Waterloo was ABBA's second album – but the first to be released under their new group name. Previously known as the somewhat longinded Björn, Benny, Agnetha & Anni-Frid (or Frida), their manager, Stig Anderson, was never especially enthusiastic about that moniker. In fact, nobody was. But when the group first started recording together in 1972, it was meant more as a "hobby" project, and since the two boys had recorded as Björn & Benny, it was natural to just add the girls' names to the line-up.

The hobby turned into a permanent group when the song *Ring, Ring* became a hit in 1973. Anderson got tired of having to refer to the four names everytime he spoke to the press about them. Toying around with the initials of the names, he came up with ABBA. The media got wind of his nickname, and was amused: Abba is also the name of a Swedish canned fish company. After some initial hesitation the group decided to go along with Stig's suggestion. The fish company gave their blessing, and starting from the group's next record release the group would be calling themselves ABBA.

That next release was in fact three different records, issued on the same day. On March 4, 1974, two singles, featuring the Swedish and English version of *Waterloo* respectively, and an album with the same title, were released in Sweden. To be on the safe side, the billing "Björn, Benny, Agnetha & Frida" was retained within parentheses after ABBA.

Recording for the album had begun at the end of September 1973, just a few weeks after ABBA had returned from their Summer tour of that year. The first track to be recorded was *Dance (While The Music Still Goes On)*. The song was influenced by Phil Spector, whose early 1960s recordings were an important inspiration for ABBA during their first years together.

The title track was recorded towards the end of the sessions for the album, in December 1973. The previous month, Björn, Benny and Stig had been invited to submit an entry to the Swedish selections for the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest. After the previous year's failure with *Ring, Ring*, the trio were more eager than ever to try their luck at the contest. Most record

Dressing warm for the cold Swedish Winter. ▶





ABBA Waterloo

companies in places like Great Britain and the United States were fairly indifferent to pop music from Sweden, and ABBA knew that the Eurovision Song Contest was virtually their only chance for exposure to a big international audience.

Björn, Benny and Stig decided that the best bet for ABBA would be a "happy" uptempo song. With this thought in mind, Björn and Benny set out to the island of Viggso in the Stockholm archipelago, where they owned Summer houses. They had started the habit of retreating there for songwriting sessions: it was the best way to get away from all the noise and distractions of their daily work as producers at the record company Polar Music.

Björn and Benny's songwriting method was to sit together for hours on end, playing chords on guitar and piano, humming fragments of melodies, trying to come up with good ideas. During that November songwriting session, the pair put together a couple of compositions. Among them was an uptempo rocker which in many ways was also a nostalgic throwback to the Phil Spector records of the previous decade. A cassette demo of the pair humming their way through the song, accompanied by piano and guitar, was submitted to Stig Anderson.

Stig, who was one of Sweden's most prolific lyricists during the 1960s and early 1970s, set to work on finding the right title for the song. He needed something that was catchy and easy to understand all over the world. At first, he tried *Honey Pie*, but

that title didn't seem to lead anywhere. After a week of agonizing he finally found the word *Waterloo* in a book of familiar quotations, referring to Napoleon Bonaparte's legendary defeat by British and German forces at the battle in the Belgian town on June 18, 1815.

A few hours later, he had the complete Swedish lyrics for the song, constructing a story of *Waterloo* as a metaphor for a girl surrendering to the love of a suitor. ABBA entered the recording studio to commit the song to tape in mid-December 1973. On the following day the group recorded yet another of their new songs. This time it was a mid-tempo ballad that they also felt could be a contender for the Eurovision Song Contest. Stig was just on his way to a holiday on the Canary Islands when a new demo tape was thrust in his hand. It was time to come up with another set of lyrics.

Repeatedly hearing the Spanish phrase "*hasta mañana*" – meaning "see you tomorrow" – on his holiday, gave Stig the idea for the title. He dictated the lyrics over the telephone so that ABBA could go into the studio and record it as soon as possible. Whereas Agnetha and Frida had shared the lead vocals on *Waterloo*, *Hasta Mañana* became a solo number for Agnetha. She drew inspiration from her teenage idol, Connie Francis, to find the right mood for the interpretation.

When Stig returned home from his holiday it was only one

• ABBA winning the Eurovision Song Contest in Brighton, April 6, 1974. Bottom left: The group with manager Stig Anderson and conductor Sven-Olof Walldoff.

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day left before the entries to the Swedish selections for the Eurovision Song Contest had to be submitted. But which song to choose? Both were strong, but *Hasta Mañana* was a little closer to what the audience expected from a contest entry.

In the end, *Waterloo* was chosen precisely because it broke with the "dramatic ballad" tradition of the competition. ABBA decided that they were going to put a rock'n'roll spin on the Eurovision Song Contest. It turned out to be exactly the right choice. At the Swedish selections, held on February 9, 1974, ABBA came out the victors with a margin of almost 100 points over the runner-up. The previous year's panel of music experts had been replaced with a cross section of the Swedish public, which may have something to do with the outcome.

On April 6, ABBA performed the English version of *Waterloo* in the Eurovision Song Contest finals in Brighton, England. The group was dressed in what is perhaps the most well-known of their many colourful costumes over the years (as depicted on the cover of this album), while conductor Sven-Olof Walldoff had dressed up as Napoleon (on the *Waterloo* album cover, it's actually bass player Mike Watson who acts the Napoleon part). ABBA won the juries over yet again – it was the first time ever that Sweden had won the contest.

Waterloo rapidly became a worldwide hit of some magnitude, reaching the Top 5 in several European countries as well

as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Japan, and the Top 10 in the United States. The *Waterloo* album topped the charts in Sweden and Norway, charting highly in many other countries as well. Highlights on the album included *Honey, Honey*, the follow-up single in most countries, and Frida's big ballad on the album, *Gonna Sing You My Lovesong*. *Waterloo* is also notable for being the only ABBA album to contain a lead vocal performance by Benny: *Suzy-Hang-Around*.

In the United States and Canada, a brand new remix of *Ring, Ring* with some added electric guitar and saxophone was included on the album. The remix makes its CD debut as a bonus selection on this version of *Waterloo*. The other two bonus tracks are the Swedish versions of *Waterloo* and *Honey, Honey*, which made up the A- and B-side of a domestic single release. *Waterloo* was also featured in the track listing for the original Swedish version of the album. Those who want to hear the album as ABBA themselves planned it may programme their CD players thus: tracks 13, 2-11, 1.

With the *Waterloo* album it was clear that ABBA had taken a step away from the tryouts of its predecessor, *Ring, Ring*, although they had yet to find their true voice. But where the album may be a bit rough around the edges, it does make up for it tenfold in charm and hummable melodies – ABBA never failed in that department. ■

An alternate shot from the *Waterloo* theme version of the Giesholm people in Malmö, Sweden. ➤





ABBA Waterloo

01 Waterloo

01. Ankerlångfing. Andersson, B. Ulvén
Universal Music Songs AB

My my my Waterloo ingårer i det ännu
Oh yeah and såre mer än döda
Än kunde jag tänka mig
The history book on the shelf
Always repeating itself
Waterloo - I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo - Promise to love you for ever more
Waterloo - Couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo
My, my, tried to hold you back but you were stronger
Oh yeah and now it seems
My only chance is giving up the fight
And how could I ever refuse
And like I wish when I love
Waterloo - I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo - Promise to love you for ever more
Waterloo - Couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo
So how could I ever refuse
I feel the hands when I love
Waterloo - Couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you

02 Sitting in The Palmtree

01. Ankerlångfing. Ulvén
Universal Music Songs AB

Sit the sitting in the palmtree
Waiting down at people passing by
Sitting long no one can turn me
They just stare at me and wonder why
No need to bother, I'm gonna stay up here
Whatever happens, you'll be no one else
Until you tell me, Jeanie Jeanie on my mind
Won't you please
You really love me, Jeanie Jeanie you're so fine
Yes you are now
And in the evening, when the sun goes down
I'll be the bluest of men in that town
Cause I love you, Jeanie Jeanie on my mind
Sit the sitting in the palmtree
Waiting for those little words from you
People laugh and point their fingers
Like with a monkey at the zoo
But I'll stay here, among my coconuts
So you will know dear, you're everything I've got
How you'll get, till the Jeanie Jeanie on my mind
Winds blow, stars glow, like a light in her window
Dark trees, soft breeze
I carry my message to her please
I'm the sitting in the palmtree
Feeling angry at the city crowd
No one else but you can save me
You should know by now I'm far too proud
I need to show you, I've got my feelings too
You shouldn't treat me like you always do

So when you tell me, Jeanie Jeanie on my mind,
Won't you please
You really love me, Jeanie Jeanie you're so fine
Yes you are now
And in the evening, when the sun goes down
I'll be the bluest of men in that town
Cause I love you, Jeanie Jeanie on my mind
Jeanie Jeanie, oh so fine
Jeanie Jeanie on my mind
Jeanie Jeanie on my mind
Jeanie Jeanie, oh so fine

03 King Kong Song

01. Ankerlångfing. Ulvén
Universal Music Songs AB

Well I was looking at a movie on the TV last night
Then I had a very funny notion yeah
I really had to write a song about it
And then I'm gonna sing it with my special 100 band
And I bet the people gonna like it, yeah
I know that everybody's gonna shout it
And what a wonderful mighty noise
A big black and gorilla
We do the King Kong song, won't you sing along
Listen to the music and it couldn't go wrong
We do the King Kong song, gotta sing along
Can't you hear the beating of the monkey drum
Listen to the rhythm of the King Kong song
Now we can make the jungle out of any old place
We can make gorillas out of people, yeah
What, who can tell a monkey from a monkey

« ABBA on their holiday island, Viggest, in the Stockholm archipelago



ABBA Waterloo

So people get together gotta have a good time
Everybody listen to the music, yeah
Cause what we're gonna sing is kinda funny
So let your arms hang down
And nodde at spring
At a dreadful empty room
A big black wild gorilla
We do the King Kong song, won't you sing along
Listen to the music and it couldn't go wrong
We do the King Kong song, gotta sing along
Can't you hear the beating of the monkey tom-tom
Listen to the rhythm of the King Kong song
Like a dreadful mighty killer
A big black wild gorilla
We do the King Kong song, won't you sing along
Listen to the music and it couldn't go wrong
We do the King Kong song, gotta sing along
Can't you hear the beating of the monkey tom-tom
Listen to the rhythm of the King Kong song
We do the King Kong song, won't you sing along
Listen to the music and it couldn't go wrong
We do the King Kong song, gotta sing along
Can't you hear the beating of the monkey tom-tom
Listen to the rhythm of the King Kong song

04 Hasta Mañana

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Musical Union Songs AB

Where is the spring and the summer
That once was your love here
Where do I go
You won't know

But still my love for you will live forever
Hasta Mañana 'til we meet again
Don't know where, don't know when
Darling, our love was much too strong to die
We'll find a way to face a new tomorrow
Hasta Mañana, say we'll meet again
I can't do without you
Time to forget, send me a letter
Say you forgive me sooner the better
Hasta Mañana, baby, Hasta Mañana, until then
Where is the dream we were dreaming
And all the nights we shared
When did they go
Just don't know
And I can't tell you just how much I miss you
Hasta Mañana 'til we meet again
Don't know where, don't know when
Darling, our love was much too strong to die
We'll find a way to face a new tomorrow
Hasta Mañana, say we'll meet again
I can't do without you
Time to forget, send me a letter
Say you forgive me sooner the better
Hasta Mañana, baby, Hasta Mañana, until then
Hasta Mañana, say we'll meet again
I can't do without you
Time to forget, send me a letter
Say you forgive me sooner the better
Hasta Mañana, baby, Hasta Mañana, until then

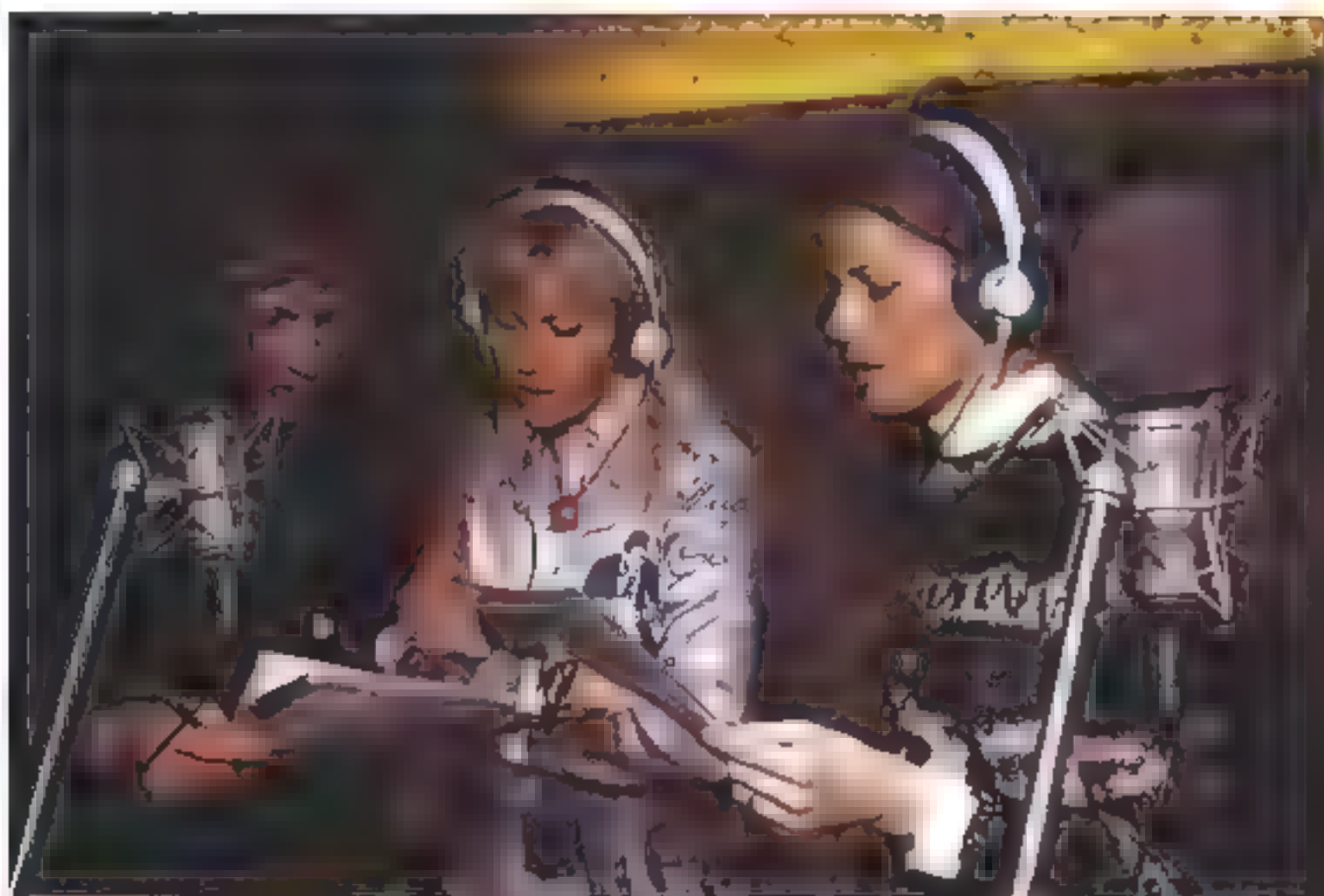
05 My Mama Said

© Andersson/B. Andersson/© Universal
Musical Union Songs AB

Tried to sneak out without saying
With my loudest record playing
Dad, my mama said, "look at this
you haven't done your bed"
My mama said,
"That's a thing that you should do instead"
Yeah - did what she had told me
Dying for my bread to hold me
Dad, my mama said,
"Try and get one thing into your head"
My mama said,
"It's not me, we gave you room and bread"
How would I live any life
Wasting my my life
Lately, lately, life
In the morning she said, "listen"
Look - left me in a prison
Yeah, my mama said,
"I know you've been out again with Fred"
My mama said,
My mama said,
"Don't you lie, your cheeks are blushing red"
My mama said
Oh - wants me by life
Wants live my life
Lately, lately, life
said, can't live without him
How would you wouldn't doubt him
Dad, my mama said

Celebration of the victory in the Swedish tele-part of the Eurovision Song Contest at the home of Stig Anderson. ©





"If you were to hurt me go ahead"
 My mama said
 My mama said "I suppose you'd rather see me dead"
 Oh, mama said
 Oh, mama said "I'll be
 Wanna live my life
 Laidla la-la-la, la"

05 Dance (While The Music Still Goes On)

© 1976 ABBA
 Warner Bros. Songs AB

"If my love it makes me sad
 Why do things turn out so bad
 Was it just a dream, everything we did
 Everything we had
 Baby, give me one more dance
 While the music still goes on
 Don't drink alone tomorrow
 And don't forget our better time
 Tonight's a night we know
 It's a memory, a night of our own
 A thing to remember when we're all alone
 So dance, it's up to us to say goodbye
 Yes, if we have to do it
 Dance while the music still goes on
 There's no one left to cry
 Dance, don't you hear them play our song
 You know that we've been trying
 But we don't make it, and nothing's the same
 We can't fight back, it's already a lifetime
 So dance while the music still goes on

And let it be our last goodbye
 For all seems to make me sad
 Why do things turn out so bad
 Was it just a dream, everything we did
 Everything we had
 Baby, give me one more dance
 While the music still goes on
 Just like the night, meet you
 Dance and believe me, when you're gone
 You know I won't forget you
 Our love was a memory, a night of our own
 A thing to remember when we're all alone
 You tell me it's over, when there is no way
 So dance while the music still goes on
 It's gonna be our last goodbye
 Dance while the music still goes on
 Don't think about tomorrow
 And don't forget our better time
 Tonight's a night we know
 It's a memory, a night of our own
 A thing to remember when we're all alone
 So dance while the music still goes on
 And let it be our last goodbye
 Dance while the music still goes on
 This is no time to cry
 Dance, don't you hear them play our song
 Don't drink alone tomorrow
 Dance while the music still goes on
 And don't forget our better time
 Dance and believe me, when you're gone
 You know I won't forget you

07 Honey, Honey

© 1976 ABBA
 Warner Bros. Songs AB

Honey honey, can you tell me about honey honey
 Honey honey, nearly all the time about honey honey
 I heard about you before
 I wanted to know some more
 And now I know what they mean, you're a love machine
 Oh, you make me dizzy
 Honey honey, it's so hot, it's hot, honey honey
 Honey honey, don't compare with honey honey
 The way that you kiss, goodnight
 The way that you kiss me goodnight
 The way that you hold me tight
 The way that you hold me tight
 Don't let me know what's in it for me
 Don't let me know what's in it for me
 So stay on the ground, get you better not get too high
 But for good, stay so close, baby
 You'll never get rid of me
 There's no other place in the world
 Where I'd rather be
 Honey honey, touch me, baby, oh, honey honey
 Honey honey, touch me, baby, oh, honey honey
 So close like a mouse ear
 You look like a mouse ear
 But I know just what you are
 I know just what you are
 And honey, it's my ear, it's my ear, it's my ear
 So stay on the ground, get you better not get too high
 There's no other place in the world
 Where I'd rather be

ABBA Waterloo

Honey honey how you thrill me, ah-hah, honey honey
Honey honey, nearly kill me, ah-hah honey honey
Heard about you before
Worked to make some time
And now I know what they mean,
You're a love machine

■ US Watch Out

© Anderson/D. Johnson
Universal/Quon Songs AB

You move like a lightning bolt
Your eyes like a flash of lightning
The answer to all desire
And the games come you wild thing
You'd better watch out
I said you'd better watch out
Watch out

Anywhere you go I'll find you
Watch out
I'll be staying close behind you
And I'm tired of waiting
Yes it's driving me crazy
And my patience is fading
Oh, you'd better watch out
I said you'd better watch out
It's been kind of funny lately
You act like I ain't a stranger
«Hah you're beginning to scare me
But then you're a girl in danger
You'd better watch out
Oh, I said you'd better watch out
Watch out

Anywhere you go I'll find you
Watch out
I'll be staying close behind you
And I'm tired of waiting
Yes it's driving me crazy
And my patience is fading
I said you'd better watch out
Watch out
Watch out
And I'm tired of waiting
Yes it's driving me crazy
And my patience is fading
I said you'd better watch out
Oh, you'd better watch out
Oh, you'd better watch out
Oh, you'd better watch out

■ 99 What About Livingstone

© Anderson/D. Johnson
Universal/Quon Songs AB

Went to buy me a paper at the local newsstand
And then I heard them laugh and say
Look, they're gonna go flying away up to the moon now
Hey, what's it good for anyway
So, wait
Fellas like to ask you a thing or two
What about Livingstone
What about all those men
Who have sacrificed their lives to lead the way
Tell me, wasn't it worth the while
Traveling up the Nile

Putting themselves on test
Didn't that help the rest
Wasn't it worth it then
What about Livingstone
And all of those fellows at the local newsstand
Didn't hear what to answer or what to say
So I told them about him, that he was just like
One of those politicians in his way
And if you laugh at them
Then there's only a thing I can say
What about Livingstone
What about all those men
Who have sacrificed their lives to lead the way
Tell me, wasn't it worth the while
Traveling up the Nile
Putting themselves on test
Didn't that help the rest
Wasn't it worth it then
What about Livingstone
Didn't he do it, well didn't he
What about all those men
Didn't he do it, well didn't he
Who have sacrificed their lives to lead the way
Tell me, wasn't it worth the while
Traveling up the Nile
Didn't that help the rest
Didn't that help them, well, didn't it
Wasn't it worth it then
What about Livingstone
Didn't he do it, well didn't he



ABBA Waterloo

Ring, ring, the happiest sound of them all
 Ring, ring, I stare at the phone on the wall
 And I sit all alone impatiently
 Won't you please understand the need in me
 So, ring, ring, why don't you give me a call
 Oh, ring, ring, why don't you give me a call
 You were here and now you're gone
 Hey, did I do something wrong
 I just can't believe that I could be so badly mistaken
 Was it me or was it you
 Tell me, are we really through
 Won't you hear me cry,
 And you will know that my heart is breaking
 Please forgive and then forget
 Or maybe darling better yet, oh-oh
 Ring, ring, why don't you give me a call
 Ring, ring, the happiest sound of them all
 Ring, ring, I stare at the phone on the wall
 And I sit all alone impatiently
 Won't you please understand the need in me
 So, ring, ring, why don't you give me a call
 Oh, ring, ring, why don't you give me a call
 Oh oh, ring, ring, why don't you give me a call
 So, ring, ring, why don't you give me a call

13 Waterloo

M. Anderson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvén/
 Universal/Unus Songs AB

Jo, jo, vå Waterloo Napoleon fick gå sig
 Men, men, sitt öde kan man möta
 På så många ställen så
 Solly kärnar jag sen jag mött dig

Historien upprepar sig
 Waterloo - jag är beresegrad, nu ger jag mig
 Waterloo - löva mig något att älska dig
 Waterloo - alltid kärns rätt, och det är min tro
 Waterloo - du är mitt öde, mitt Waterloo
 Wa Wa Wa Wa Waterloo - du är mitt öde, mitt Waterloo
 Jo, jo, man väntar sig och räddas i det älskade
 Men, men, sitt öde kan man möta gudarna förgäves,
 Här man sagt
 Det är som jag borde en gång
 Jag tror det är kärlek på gång
 Waterloo - så har man fört sin örmann
 Waterloo - mäktig och vildig och stark är han
 Waterloo - alltid kärns rätt, och det är min tro
 Waterloo - du är mitt öde, mitt Waterloo
 Wa Wa Wa Wa Waterloo - du är mitt öde, mitt Waterloo
 Det är som jag borde en gång
 Jag tror det är kärlek på gång
 Waterloo - alltid kärns rätt, och det är min tro
 Waterloo - du är mitt öde, mitt Waterloo
 Wa Wa Wa Wa Waterloo - du är mitt öde, mitt Waterloo

14 Honey, Honey

B. Anderson/S. Anderson/B. Ulvén/
 Universal/Unus Songs AB

Honey honey, underbara, ah-ha, honey honey
 Honey honey, söta söta, ah-ha, honey honey
 Dom älskar så söta ord
 Du är deras allt på jorden
 Det där ska du inte tro
 Klara takt med ro
 Söta är bara smacker

Honey honey, me älska, ah-ha, honey honey
 Honey honey, söta söta, ah-ha, honey honey
 Den lovar och söta ord är tom
 Och det är en grykedom
 Nej, kär som smacker så
 Lutar ingen på
 Det brukar vi dom som säger
 Som kriget hållt med
 Men vet man det bara
 Så kan man nog hålla det
 Tro inte på önskesmacker
 Och passa dig vad du gör
 Och håll dig med boken på jorden
 Ja, vad du är här
 Honey honey, viskar alla, ah-ha, honey honey
 Honey honey, lilla söta, ah-ha, honey honey
 Men tro inte det du vill
 Och lägg inte märke till
 Det söta du alltid tror
 Som så många gör
 Tro inte på smacker
 Nej, passa dig vad du gör
 Ja, täll dig med boken på jorden
 Ja, vad du är här
 Honey honey, underbara, ah-ha, honey honey
 Honey honey, söta söta, ah-ha, honey honey
 Men socker är inte allt
 Så titt med en nyttig sak
 Och är du försiktig sen
 Tar du inte en
 Nej, då tar du många

Credits

Musicians: Guitars: Janne Schäfer. Bass: Rutger Gunnarsson. Drums: Olof Brunkert. Acoustic guitar: Björn Ulvæus. Piano, moog and melodrone: Benny Andersson. Bass Dance: Per Sahlgren. Tenorsax: Waterroot. Christer Eldund. Congas: Sitting in The Palmist: Malando Gassama. Strings: Money, Money arranged by Sven-Olof Wallkvist.

Produced by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus. Recorded at Metrophone Studio, Stockholm, September 1973–January 1974. Engineered by Michael B. Tretow.

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Preparing for a Waterroot performance. 18





